नियोजित करने के अनुसार प्रावधान नहीं हैं।

(ख)उपर्युक्त उत्तर के (क) भाग को दृष्टिगत करते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता हैं।

Inadequate infrastructure In Coal Sector

2758. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Infrastructure to handle the growing demand and production of coal is inadequate; and

(b) how does Government plan to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY. OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been mismatch between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas.

(b) Ministry of Coal and Coal Companies are taking steps to improve despatches by rail in coordination with the Railways for increased evacuation of coal from coalfields of Talcher, lb Valley, North Karanpura and Korla, Steps are also constantly made to improve the infrastructure for evacuation of coal produced by the coal companies by Rail cum-sea movement by revamping port infrastructure.

French collaboration in Khottadih Colliery

2759. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether underground of Khottadih colliery under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. envisaging deployment of Powered Support Equipment and Project was implemented in collaboration with France;

(b) whether, after starting production in July, 1994 the powered support equipment got damaged in April, 1997;

(c) if so, what is the reason for the damage;

(d) what was the cost of the project; and

(e) what is the total loss of coal production and amount caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The powered support longwall face equipment was damaged due to massive dynamic loading of the overlying strata.

(d) The cost of the project was Rs. 340.86 crores, of which the dost of the longwall equipment was Rs. 92 crores.

(e) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that due to damage to the equipment the annual loss of production is 0.S8 million tonnes of a value of Rs. 58 crores.

Underground and open cast mines in BCCL

2760. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of -production and productivity in underground mines and open cast mines in BCCL in 1975, 1980, 1990 and 1997;

(b) employment and investment in BCCL for the same period;

(c) the steps taken to improve working in underground mines; and

(d) the total reserve extractable by underground mines and by open cast mines as on the 1st April, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The details of production and productivity in underground and opencast mines in BCCL in 1975-76, 1980-81, 1990-91 and 1997-98 are given below:

Year	Production (In million tonnes)		Productivity (In tonnes)	
	U/G	O/C	U/G	O/C
1975-76	16.88	3.21	0.54	0.77
1980-81	15.16	6.26	0.49	1.14
1990-91	12.29	14.41	0.45	1.91
1997-98	10.18	28.73	0.48	2.67

(b) The employment strength and investment (Capital Expenditure) in BCCL for the same period are as under:

Year	Employment (As on 1st April)	Investment (Rs. in crores) (Capital expenditure)
1975-76	176,145	35.96
1980-81	168,835	65.85
1990-91	167,469	237.37
1997-98	142,436	173.09

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve working in underground mines:-

(i) Rationalisation of manpower and control of manpower.

(ii) Training of unskilled and skilled manpower to meet the shortage of skilled personnel.

(iii) Training of female workers as support workforce at surface/opencast mines with a view to replace the male workers working at surface/opencast mines for underground jobs.

(iv) Control of absenteeism through surprise check and other measures.

(v) Curtailment of lead and lift.

(vi) Progressive introduction of steel support including roof bolting/roof stitching at the working faces in development districts.

(d) The extractable coal reserve in underground blocks and opencast blocks as on 1.4.1996 after making allowance for reserves blocked under various surface constraints and loss in extraction is as under:

	(In million onnes)
(i) Opencast block (ii)	2459
Underground block	1150
TOTAL	: 3609

Female employees in BCCL

2761. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) number of female employees in BCCL on 1st May, 1973 and 1st May, 1978;

(b) whether it is a policy in BCCL to discourage female employment despite increase in open cast mining and it being against the spirit of Constitution; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?